

Are you finding it difficult to enjoy your favorite everyday activities, such as reading, playing tennis, or simply watching TV? Are your eye floaters causing you to miss out on special family events because you have difficulty driving due to obscured vision? Would you like to eliminate or reduce the hindrance that eye floaters cause, in order to see more clearly?

Every day, more and more patients are discovering the benefits and freedom that Laser Floater Treatment or LFT can provide.

This guide helps to answer questions you may have about floaters and outlines the treatment options available, including LFT.





What are floaters?

Eye floaters are small pieces of debris that float in the eye's vitreous humor. This debris casts shadows on to the retina (the light-sensitive tissue layer at the back of the eye). If you have eye floaters, it is these shadows that you see 'floating' across your field of vision.



Normal Vision



Vision with Floaters

What causes eye floaters?

Age

As you age, the vitreous, the jelly-like substance that fills your eye, softens and liquefies as it pulls away from the interior surface of the eye. When this happens, the vitreous can stick together and form little clumps. The shadows of these clumps are what appear as stringy lines, rings, or cloud-like shadows in your field of vision.

Nearsightedness

People who are myopic (nearsighted) often have longer eyes. This can cause more changes in the vitreous, leading to an increased prevalence of eye floaters.

Trauma

Severe eye injuries can potentially change the structure of the vitreous, leading to a greater likelihood of developing floaters.

Post-cataract surgery

Cataract surgery can sometimes accelerate the detachment of the vitreous, which can lead to eye floaters. You may also be more aware of your eye floaters when the cloudy cataract which masked them is no longer obscuring your vision.

Diabetic eye disease

Also known as diabetic retinopathy, this disease affects nearly 80% of people who have had diabetes for 20 years or more. Vision becomes impaired when macular blood vessels in the center of the eye (macula) start to leak or bleed, and in some cases bleed into the vitreous and cause floaters and reduced vision.

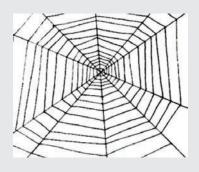
Uveitis

This is an inflammation of the eye's uveal tract, which contains most of the eye's blood vessels. When the tract is affected due to inflammation, blood vessels may leak and cause floaters in the vitreous and reduced vision.

Floaters can look like



Grey or black dots



Cobwebs



Squiggly lines



Rings

What are the treatment options for eye floaters?

Some patients find that they gradually adjust to the presence of their eye floaters, without any impact on their quality of vision. In cases where floaters negatively affect quality of vision, treatment options including LFT and surgery are available.

Laser Floater Treatment, LFT

Also known as laser vitreolysis, Laser Floater Treatment or LFT can eliminate or reduce the visual disturbance caused by eye floaters. It is performed in your ophthalmologist's office and typically takes 20-60 minutes per treatment session. On average, two treatment sessions are required to achieve a satisfactory result.

The goal of LFT is to achieve a 'functional improvement'. That is, to allow you to return to 'normal' day-to-day activities without the hindrance of eye floaters.

Vitrectomy

A vitrectomy is a surgical option that requires the removal of all, or part of, the vitreous (the gel-like substance in the eye) in order to remove floaters. For some types of floaters, a vitrectomy may be the only treatment option available.

Due to advances in medical technology, this procedure has become safer over time. However, like any invasive surgery, vitrectomy carries the risk of several complications, including:

Infection

Retinal detachment

Retinal tears

Future cataracts

Glaucoma

About LFT

LFT is a minimally invasive procedure that offers the potential to improve visual functionality by alleviating the perception of eye floaters. LFT can also delay or obviate the need for invasive surgery.

The effectiveness of LFT has been transformed through the development of new technologies such as Reflex Technology™, which allows ophthalmologists to treat symptomatic floaters with greater spatial context than ever before. This translates to safer, more effective treatment outcomes.

Who will benefit from LFT?

Large floaters with a soft border, situated away from the retina and the lens, are ideally suited to treatment with LFT.

If your floater symptoms develop very quickly they may be a result of Posterior Vitreous Detachment (PVD), which occurs when the vitreous humor peels away from the retina entirely. This condition can be treated with LFT.

"Eye floaters can be a nuisance, negatively impacting everyday life. In some cases, they can impair vision due to their size and location in the eye."





LFT: what to expect

Step 1 Initial consultation

The first step is to determine if you are a good candidate for the procedure. Our experienced medical team will conduct a thorough examination of your eye to determine your eligibility for treatment with LFT.

On the day of your exam you will complete the necessary paperwork. Next, we will check the overall health of your eyes and the stability of your vision to make sure that you are a suitable candidate for LFT. Following the exam, you will meet with a member of our team where you can:

Ask additional questions

Discuss payment options and any insurance coverage for which you may be eligible

Schedule treatment

Step 2 During the procedure

Immediately prior to treatment, we will administer eye drop anesthesia to numb your eyes. You will sit upright, facing into a specially designed microscope. The treatment light is delivered through this microscope and a contact lens will then be placed on your eye in order to focus the treatment onto the targeted floater(s).

A member of our team will help to ensure you are appropriately positioned, supporting your head against the headrest. We may ask you to look up, down or sideways during the procedure to bring the floater into clearer view. It is important that you remain as still as possible during this process.

As treatment progresses, you will hear a clicking sound. This is normal, and is simply the laser light being fired. You will also likely observe small, dark specks/shadows – signaling that the floater(s) is being evaporated into small gas bubbles. These gas bubbles quickly dissolve and resorb into the vitreous.

Preparing for the procedure

We recommend that you bring a pair of dark sunglasses to your appointment. Your pupils will be dilated, which can lead to some glare and temporary blurring of vision. Your normal vision should return 2-5 hours after dilation.

Step 3 After the procedure

Once the treatment is complete, we will administer antiinflammatory drops. It is very important to follow your post-operative instructions and attend follow-up visits.

As there is no sedation, oral medications, or patching of the eye, you can quickly resume almost all of your normal day-to-day activities following LFT.

We recommend that you have a friend or family member drive you home after the procedure, as your eyes will remain affected by the dilation for up to five hours. "The procedure was painless and quick. It was amazing. I was surprised at how fast I was in and out of there and there was no recovery time or anything to go with it. Now I see clearly day and night."



FAQs

Will the procedure hurt?

Patients generally experience no pain during the LFT procedure. There may be some discomfort from the laser lens placed against your eye, and your vision may be sensitive to light shortly after the procedure.

How long does it take?

LFT typically takes 20-60 minutes from beginning to end, depending on the size and density of the floater(s) to be treated.

Is LFT safe?

Clinical studies have shown LFT to be a safe, effective treatment in the majority of patients.

While all procedures do involve some risk, side effects and complications associated with LFT are rare. Side effects may include cataract and intraocular pressure (IOP) spike.

When will I be able to return to work?

In most cases, the recovery process following LFT is brief. The majority of patients are able to resume normal activities the next day.

What happens to the floater during LFT?

The laser light applied during LFT does not simply break the floater into smaller pieces. Instead, it converts the floater material to a gas, which is then reabsorbed into the eye.

How much improvement should I expect to see? Is there a chance of no improvement?

Each case is different. Your ophthalmologist will discuss with you the expected results based on your individual circumstances. Overall, many patients see up to a 90% improvement and a significant decrease in the size and amount of their floaters. Some patients may require a second or third treatment to resolve any remaining floater(s).

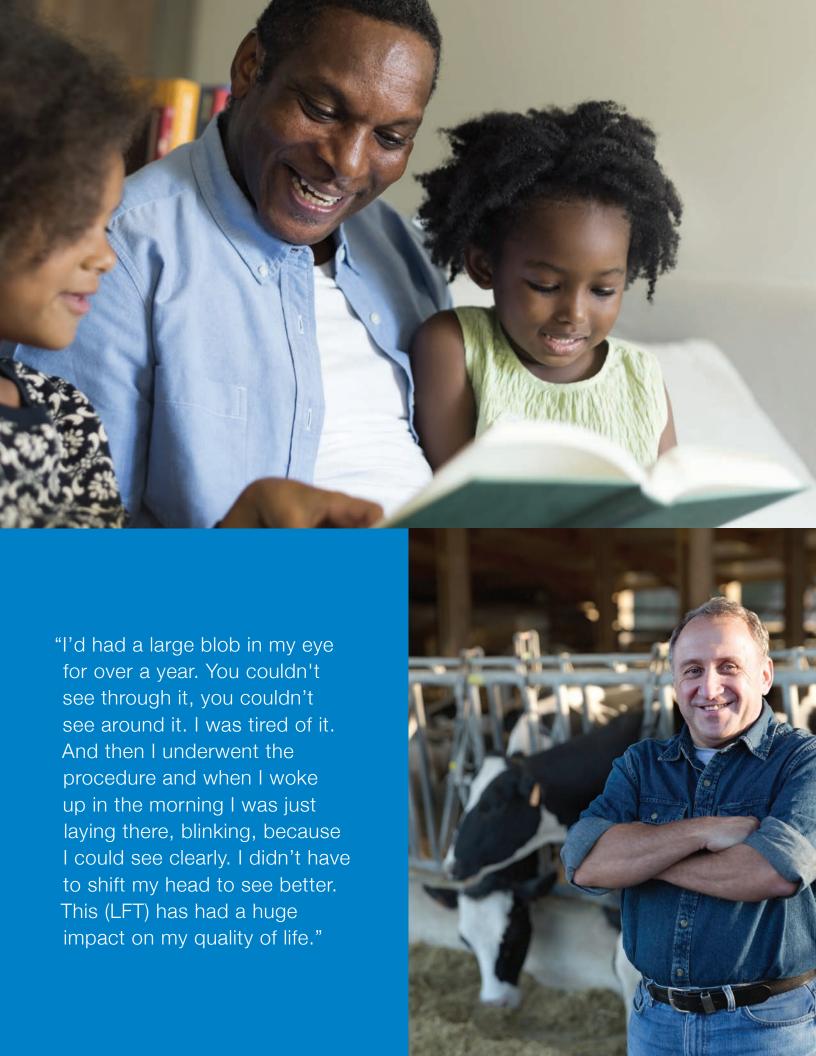
It is important to note that LFT aims to improve quality of vision, not visual acuity. In most cases, there is often no improvement in recorded (Snellen Chart) visual acuity, following LFT. The optics of the eye do not change as a result of LFT.

Can LFT treat all floaters?

In less common cases, about 15%, the patient may have thin transparent floaters or floaters located extremely close to the retina or lens. In these cases, treatment may not be advisable due to the difficulty in seeing the floater and their close proximity to fragile structures of the eye.

How many eye floaters can be treated during the procedure?

There is no limit on the total number of floaters that can be treated, but this depends on time, total energy delivered and comfort level of the doctor and patient.



Why choose our practice?

Each member of our team of highly experienced surgeons has performed thousands of procedures and has years of surgical experience. In the case of patients suffering from symptomatic floaters, we have achieved countless success stories with LFT.

We use state-of-the-art Reflex Technology™ from Ellex, the company that pioneered the world's first laser purposefully designed to improve the safety and efficacy of LFT in the treatment of symptomatic floater patients.

What is the next step?

To receive complete details about LFT, we encourage you to schedule a free eye consultation and exam. Our team will walk you through the process step-by-step and will answer any questions you may have.